

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 92559-32601

Title: ANTITERRORIST MEASURES

Operation/Exercise Name: MARFOR PROMOTE LIBERTY Observed: 13 Jun 1990

Originator: COMMARFOR PANAMA

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5. (U) OBSERVATION:

A terrorist attack against one of the Panamanian National Police (PNP) cuartels where Marines were stationed was always a possibility in the low intensity conflict (LIC) of Panama.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

Some of the measures we took to deter such an attack and minimize the damage included the following.

- a. (U) Sentries were continuously posted.
- b. (U) Weapons were at condition 3 (magazine in the weapon, no round in the chamber). This increased safety and allowed the sentry to charge his weapon and fire within a second or two if necessary.
- c. (U) Sentries maintained log book to note anything of interest, i.e. repeated drive by of a vehicle, license numbers and descriptions, sightings and descriptions of suspicious personnel.
- d. (U) S-2 representatives went to the cuartels daily to debrief all sentries and patrols and to review log books.
- e. (U) Marine Forces (MARFOR) Panama provided each Marine element in the cuartels with a camera and telephoto lens to photograph suspicious persons or activity. Such photography was done as subtly as possible. Photos were quickly developed by our Public Affairs Office (PAO) noncommissioned officer (NCO) at the Fort Clayton photo lab.
- f. (U) Posting sentries apart from each other to provide mutual support and reduce the chance of losing both sentries in

an attack.

g. (U) The wooden second deck structure of the Arraijan cuartel was destroyed during "JUST CAUSE. " Marine engineers rebuilt it for billeting of Marines stationed there. The wood walls were partially filled with sand to provide small arms protection. In addition sand bags were delivered late at night and positioned inside the building so as to provide protection without giving the impression of a "fortress. " Chain link fencing was affixed to the inside of all the windows.

h. (U) A minimum number of different Marines rotated into the cuartel detachments. This allowed greater continuity and familiarity with the area and the people, making it easier for the Marines to quickly identify changes in patterns or routines and other terrorism indicators.

i. (U) Terrorism indicators were reviewed regularly.

j (U) Although MARFOR was not authorized liberty, other services and members of Marine Corps Security Force (MCSF) Company were, and some of them pulled liberty in Arraijan and Veracruz. From time to time MARFOR intelligence personnel in civilian attire using the cover of being on liberty, conducted surveillance in the vicinity of the cuartel.

k. (U) Routine in-town patrols subtly focused more attention and time on areas within small arms and rocket propelled grenade (RPG) range of the cuartel.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:
Antiterrorist measures are essential to protecting the force in a low intensity conflict LIC.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:
That the measures described be used to protect the force in a LIC.

9. (U) COMMENTS:
None stated.

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